

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

wp 7.9.09 Please amend page 16, line ¹⁰~~16~~ to page ¹⁶~~17~~, line ¹⁸~~17~~ as follows:

Moreover, as shown in Fig. 1 to Fig. 3, a plurality of dimples ~~51~~ 52, 53 being concavities are provided as housing concave portions on the sliding surface 46.

These dimples ~~51~~ are opposed to the outer circumferential surface of the ball portion 31 and opened respectively in circular forms toward a center O of the ball portion 31, and are provided entirely in the latitudinal direction of the sliding surface 46 at the through-hole 45 side further than an equator E of the ball seat 4.

Please amend page 17, line 9 to page 18, line 12 as follows:

In addition, these dimples ~~51~~ are composed of first dimples 52 being first housing portions and second dimples 53 being second housing portions.

The first dimples 52 form lines from the through-hole 45 side being one-end portion in the longitudinal direction of the ball seat 4 to the equator E side along the longitudinal direction A1 of the ball seat 4 and are provided in a plurality of tiers, for example, in three tiers, along the circumferential direction, namely, the latitudinal direction adjacent to each other. In addition, these first dimples 52 have opening areas equal to each other. Namely, the first dimples 52 have diametrical dimensions a equal to each other. Furthermore, for these first dimples 52, the